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By virtue of a direction given under Section 30 of the Patents Act 1977, the application is proceeding in the name of

API TENZA LIMITED
Incorporated in the United Kingdom
Carlton Park Industrial Estate
Saxmundham
Suffolk
IP17 2NL
United Kingdom

[ADP No. 08131971001]

JOHN MACALISTER
Clockhouse One
Rookery Park
YOXFORD
Suffolk
IP17 3HQ
United Kingdom

[ADP No. 07598253001]

The Patent Office
Cardiff Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 1RH

Request for grant of a patent

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2.	Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)	0017374.0		
3.	Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)	(1) Tenza Limited Carlton Park Industrial Estate Suttons Suttons IP17 2NL United Kingdom Patents ADP number (if you know it) If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation	(2) John MacAlister Clockhouse One Rookery Park Yoxford Suffolk IP17 3HQ United Kingdom 7598253051 12.04.01	
4.	Title of the invention	A Mount		
5.	Name of your agent (if you have one)	Page White & Farrer		
	"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)	54 Doughty Street London WC1N 2LS United Kingdom		
	Patents ADP number (if you know it)	1255003		
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Abstract 1

Drawing(s) 2

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11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

J. White & Farrer

PAGE WHITE & FARRER

14.07.2000

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

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A MOUNT

This invention relates to a mount for temporarily mounting paper to smooth glass and other substrates such as smooth gloss surfaces and to a method for manufacturing said mount.

Most paper that is adhered to glass is in the form of notices that are to be found displayed temporarily in the windows of shops, such as local newsagents. Additionally, schools and other organisations frequently employ internal glazing, such as glazed partitions, for the display of materials like students' work and relevant notices. Elsewhere, notices may be found adhered to gloss, non-porous surfaces such as gloss-painted wood.

Papers such as notices are adhered either so that the face of the page is viewed through the glass - as in the case of shop windows - or may be adhered to the glass with the "back" of the notice to the glass or to a gloss surface. This invention relates to both cases.

Typically, an organisation or commercial office, which displays, on glass, notices of, for example, community or company activities, will employ means such as cut lengths of clear adhesive tape, or proprietary materials which can be formed into small "buds" and applied to the paper and which have adequate adhesion to the paper and glass or other material to which the paper is to be attached.

Existing materials and methods for the temporary application of sheets of paper to glass suffer from a number of disadvantages, most of which arise from the fact that these

materials are not designed specifically with this application in mind.

The use of clear adhesive tapes involves cutting or tearing the tape to a suitable length and applying it to the paper with some part of the tape free to stick to the glass. The tape sticks permanently to the paper so that it is not reusable.

Over time, the tape generally deteriorates and discolours. Also, the adhesive will often be found to have hardened to the glass and the tape residue may be impossible to remove without cleaning chemicals. Most tapes used in these circumstances appear to leave, on the glass, either a very hard deposit, or a slimy gum, either of which is difficult to remove. The result of these effects is that over a period, the shop window or other glass pane or smooth surface used for notices, becomes soiled and marked. This will detract from the quality of the notice or other paper being displayed.

The use of tacky "buds" of mastic materials of a gummy nature such as "Blu-tack" (RTM) similarly involves preparing the material before use, in this case usually by tearing a suitably-sized piece from the stock and softening and shaping it to apply to the paper. The paper is then placed against the glass, with the bud of mastic between it and the glass. The mastic material then adheres to the glass. These materials are equally used to stick papers to surfaces with the back of the notice to the wall or other surface.

There are a number of disadvantages with this mastic type material besides the preparation for use.

First, when such materials are used on glass, they can be seen between the paper and the glass and they often detract from the appearance of the assembly. The use of these materials often causes the display of the notice or paper to be seen as more informal and "down-market" than it need be.

Again, over time, perhaps a few weeks, or, in direct sunlight, just a few days, the mastic material emits oily moisture that often stains the paper. The unsightly fixture or the stain can often be seen through the paper or other material.

Like the adhesive tapes, these wax-like materials leave deposits on the glass, which, if not cleaned off regularly, cause the glass pane to become unsightly. This affects also the appearance of notices or papers subsequently displayed there. This effect of deterioration increases overtime.

A further method of adhering sheets of paper to a substrate such as glass is known in the context of fixing a motor vehicle tax disk to the inside surface of the vehicle windscreen. An envelope is provided into which the vehicle tax disk is inserted. Around the edges of the envelope a border made from a plastics material is provided which is capable of adhering releasably to the vehicle windscreen when the border is pushed against the surface of the windscreen. The envelope must be large enough to hold the tax disk or other material and the border must have a sufficient surface area to provide adequate adhesion of the envelope to the windscreen. In other words, the envelope must be of a relatively large size.

For fixing materials or objects of a heavier weight than a sheet of paper to glass or other similar substrate, it is

known to use "sucker pads" which are made from a plastics material. These pads have a hollow cup shape and usually are irreleasably attached to the material to be adhered to the substrate. Thus the pads form an integral part of the heavier weight material. The pads are attached to the heavier weight material during its manufacture. The cost incurred in making and attaching the pads is such that they are unsuitable for use for the temporary adhesion to a substrate of an inexpensive material such as a handwritten notice on a sheet of paper.

The present inventors have identified that, in view of the above, a problem exists to provide a method for cheaply, cleanly and simply mounting a lightweight material such as a sheet of paper to a substrate such as glass.

Accordingly, it is an aim of the present invention at least partially to address the above problem.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a mount for mounting paper to glass, comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating capable of adhering the mount to paper and a second surface capable of securing the mount to glass without adhesive.

The present invention at least partially addresses the above problem by providing a purpose-designed, high quality mount for temporarily and cleanly mounting material such as paper to glass and other surfaces. The present mount is preferably inexpensive and easy-to-use and preferably leaves no marks on the glass or other surface even after prolonged use.

It is envisaged that, normally, the mount will be integrated with a dispenser. The dispenser may be in the form of a box known in the art, suitably adapted for the dispensing of the present mount.

The second surface of the mount is capable of securing the mount to glass without an adhesive that is different from the mount material. For the purpose of the present invention, the phrase "without adhesive" means that the second surface is left uncoated. Mount-to-second material adhesion is achieved by the inherent 'cling' properties of the selected mount material. That is to say, the mount material per se that provides the mount with a structural form, at the same time, is capable of securing the mount to glass. Without wishing to be bound by theory, it is thought that the high plasticiser content in the mount material, which gives it a high softness, enables very close contact between the mount and the second material. Air is expelled or even eliminated from the space between the second surface of the mount and the second material. This results in atmospheric pressure acting substantially on one side only of the mount.

Preferably, the second surface of the present mount is flat. More preferably, the first and second surfaces of the present mount are flat. For the purposes of the present invention, the term "flat" should be taken to mean substantially level, even or smooth.

The adhesive coating is used for the adhering of the mount to a first material such as a paper-based material. When the mount is integrated with a dispenser, suitably, the adhesive coating also may be used for releasably adhering the mount to the third or backing material contained within the dispenser.

In a first embodiment of the invention, the adhesive coating is a permanent adhesive coating. A preferred permanent adhesive composition for the first embodiment is formulated primarily for paper adhesion.

In a second embodiment, the attachment of the mount to the first material is releasable because the adhesive coating is temporary, "peelable" adhesive coating. A preferred releasable adhesive composition for the second embodiment is formulated primarily for paper adhesion.

Preferably the mount is made from a flexible mount material. More preferably, the mount is made from a plastics material. The preferred plastics material is Polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Preferably, the mount is in the form of a sheet or leaf or a membrane or film. The gauge of the sheet or leaf or membrane or film should be selected so as to optimise the behaviour and effect of the mount e.g. to facilitate manipulation of the mount. Selecting the stiffness and other mechanical properties of the mount material enables mounting of the first material such as paper to the chosen second material. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention the gauge of the mount is up to 2mm, more preferably between 0.15mm and 0.4mm, even more preferably about 0.2mm. A mount having a gauge within these ranges balances economy of the amount of mount material used with sufficient mount-to-second material adhesion strength.

In one preferred aspect of the present invention, the second surface of the mount has a surface area of about from 100 to 900mm², preferably about 320mm². Other variants may have a larger or smaller surface area.

It is envisaged that when each mount has a second surface area of about 18mm x 18mm, between two and four of the present mounts would need to be attached to a piece of A4 paper in order for the mounts to enable adhesion of the first material such as paper to the second material such as glass.

In one embodiment of the invention, the mount is transparent. Other variants may include pigmented mounts.

When the first or second surface of the present mount is flat, the surface may be any two dimensional shape. For example, the surface may be square in shape, or rectangular, with or without rounded corners, or it may be circular, or other simple shapes.

In a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for manufacturing a mount comprising the steps of providing a mount material, forming the mount as defined above from the mount material and applying a suitable adhesive coating to the first surface of the mount.

In the method for making a mount according to the present invention, a mount may be formed from the mount material by a cutting step. Conveniently, a plurality of mounts may be cut from a single piece of mount material in a single cutting step.

In accordance with one process for making the present mount, the mount material is partially or fully coated on the first surface with a coating of a suitable adhesive. The adhesive coating may be applied using a standard manufacturing technique. Such techniques would be well known to a person

skilled in this art and include application with a bar-coating device or by spray nozzles.

The mount may be presented in appropriate numbers, with the first surface adhered releasably on a third backing material. The mount should be able to be removed manually from the backing material for use.

When the present mount is adhered releasably to a backing material, the mount may be adhered to the backing material either before or after it is cut from the mount material and after the adhesive coating is applied to the first surface of the mount material. Usually, the mount will be adhered to the backing material before it is cut from the mount material and after the adhesive coating is applied to the backing material.

Accordingly, in one embodiment of the present method, the method comprises a further step of releasably adhering a third, backing material of siliconised paper or other suitable material to the first surface of the mount material. The third material is in the form of a sheet although this is not essential. This step, of laminating the two materials, is carried out after application of the adhesive coating. This may be effected by applying pressure with rollers.

Advantageously, the present mount may be dispensed from a box device, for example a cardboard box device, which facilitates the separation of the mount from the backing material and the manipulation of the mount. The dispenser box may be a box known in the art and adapted for the dispensing of the mount.

Alternatively, the mounts, for example one or several mounts, may be adhered to small sheets of backing material from which the or each mount may be 'peeled' manually for use.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows schematically a process for making the present mounts. The mount material 3 from which the mounts are cut and the backing material 1 from which the dispenser tape is cut are shown.

Figure 2 shows a length of dispenser backing material 1 to which the present mounts 5 may be adhered when the mounts are integrated with a dispenser. Two possible shapes for the present mount are shown.

Figure 3 shows the principle of the removal of the mounts from the dispenser backing material.

Figure 4 shows a use of the mount 5 for attaching temporarily a first material such as a paper-based material 7 to a second material such as a glass-based material 8.

Figure 1 shows the backing material 1 to which an adhesive coating is applied at station 2 by a conventional coating method. The mount material 3 is then applied using rollers 4.

Figure 2 shows the shape of the mounts cut through the mount material whilst it is attached to the backing material. The mounts 5 are left adhered releasably to the backing material 1 while the off-cut matrix of mount material is removed.

In Figure 3 the mounts 5, which are releasably adhered to the backing material 1, are made to peel away from the backing material by pulling the backing material 4 through an opening in the dispensing device. The backing material is caused to be bent away from the mount and the mount is forced in a different direction to the direction of movement of the backing material. The device includes an edge that may be in the form of a blade or flat strip 7. The edge separates the slightly stiff mount 6 as it resists bending from the backing material 4. This type of separating action is known in the art in the context of separation of labels from a dispenser.

In figure 4 the mount 5 is shown in use adhered to the first material, for example to a sheet of paper or other material 7. The second surface of the mount then is adhered to the second material 8, for example to glass or another substrate. This causes the paper or other material to be mounted to the glass or other substrates 8.

CLAIMS

1. A mount for mounting paper to glass, comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating capable of adhering the mount to paper and a second surface capable of securing the mount to glass without adhesive.
2. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface is flat.
3. A mount according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the mount is flexible.
4. A mount according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mount is transparent.
5. A mount according to any one of the preceding claims comprising a plastics material.
6. A mount according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plastics material is polyvinyl chloride.
7. A mount according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first surface carrying an adhesive coating is capable of adhering permanently the mount to paper.
8. A mount according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the first surface carrying an adhesive coating is capable of adhering releasably the mount to paper.
9. A mount according to any one of claims 2 to 8, which is a film.

10. A mount according to claim 9, wherein the thickness of the mount is up to 2mm.

11. A mount according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range 100mm² to 900mm².

12. A mount according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the first or second surface is square, rectangular, triangular or circular.

13. A mount according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the second surface is not capable of adhering the mount to paper.

14. Use of a mount as defined in any one of the preceding claims for securing a first material to a second material.

15. Use of a mount according to claim 14, wherein the first material is a paper-based material.

16. Use of a mount according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the second material is a glass-based material.

17. Use of a mount according to any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein the second material has a smooth surface.

18. A device for dispensing a mount including one or more mounts as defined in any one of claims 1 to 13.

19. A device according to claim 18, wherein the first surface of the one or more mounts is adhered releasably to a third material.

20. A device according to claim 19, wherein the third material comprises silicone.

21. A mount according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the first surface of the mount is releasably adhered to a third material.

22. A plurality of mounts according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of mounts is releasably adhered to a single sheet of the third material.

23. A method for making a mount as defined in claim 21 comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing the third material;
- (ii) applying an adhesive coating to a surface of the third material;
- (iii) adhering releasably the mount material to the third material; and
- (iv) forming the mount from the mount material.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the mount is formed in step (iv) by cutting.

25. A method according to claim 23 or 24, wherein the adhesive is applied in step (ii) by a roller or a spray nozzle.

ABSTRACT

A MOUNT

A mount for mounting paper or other similar flat flexible material to smooth glass or other suitable smooth surface, comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating capable of adhering the mount to paper and a second surface capable of securing the mount to glass without adhesive.

Fig 1

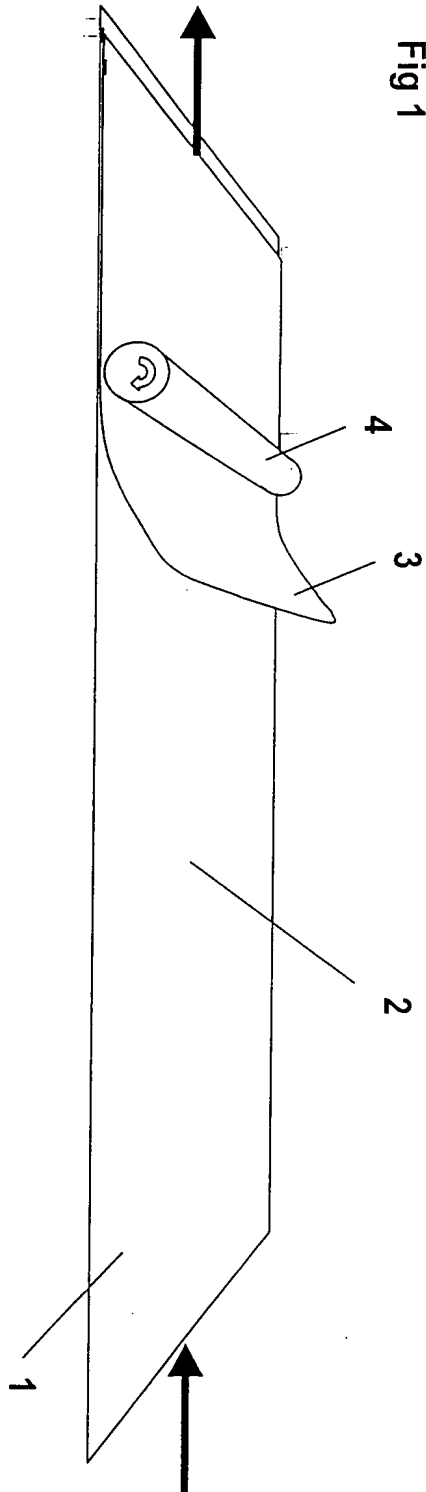


Fig 2

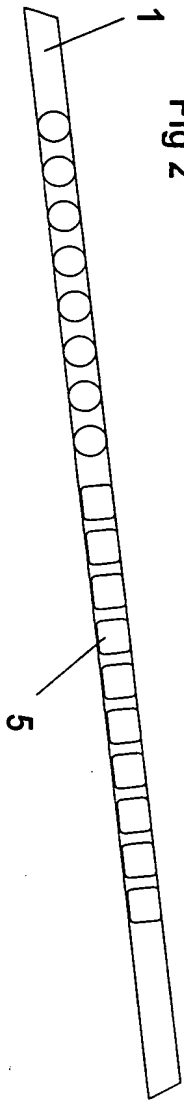


Fig 3

